

Two years later, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (or Metro) compact, a partnership among the regional jurisdictions, was created, and planning began for bus and future rail routes. Momentum increased during the 1970s. NVTC received a federal grant to build the nation's first transit way, the Shirley Highway Bus Project. Metro broke ground with Blue, Orange and Yellow Line service to Virginia starting in the late '70s. NVTC launched a new program known then as Computeride, which later became Commuter Connections, to help commuters plan their trips to work and establish carpools.

NVTC secured a major victory in the early 1980s when it worked with the Virginia General Assembly to pass a 2 percent regional gas tax to support Metro bus and rail service. Planning also began for a new commuter rail service extending to Prince William and Stafford counties. Transit service continued to expand during the 1990s with the new Virginia Railway Express (VRE). In 1996, NVTC was awarded the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Government Agency Award. During the past decade, NVTC has been actively planning the next generation transportation network to meet the challenges of Northern Virginia's growth and working with elected leaders at all levels to provide the dedicated funding that will be necessary to deliver those improvements.

It is fitting that NVTC marks its 50th anniversary with one of the largest expansions of the Metro system with the opening of the new Silver Line with service to Tysons and Reston earlier this year. There are now 156 million transit trips in Northern Virginia. Metro, with 91 stations across the region, including 25 in Virginia with six more under construction with phase 2 of the Silver Line, serves more than 750,000 rider trips a day. Metro bus now has 335 routes and 15,000 bus stops throughout the region. VRE, which now operates 30 trains from 18 stations, carries 20,000 passengers daily. Of course, all of that is supplemented by the cities and counties with their own transit services. Demonstrating the tremendous reach and success of NVTC's collective efforts, transit and ridesharing now carry nearly 50 percent of the region's peak travelers.

Mr. Speaker, the success of NVTC has fueled the success of not only Northern Virginia, but also the National Capital Region. The tradition of collaboration and shared investment that has characterized NVTC will serve our communities for generations to come. NVTC's collaborative success gives witness to the fact that our politics can work to serve our constituents. I was proud to be a part of it for 14 years, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the staff and leadership, both past and present, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for their commitment to providing a world-class transportation system and improving the quality of life for those who live and work in the National Capital Region.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP-ELECT PASTOR WALTER F. HARVEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on October 31–November 2, 2014, Parklawn Assembly of

God Church will celebrate the Installation of Pastor Walter F. Harvey to the Episcopal Assignment of Bishop. Also, during this special and historic weekend when Pastor Harvey will be installed, Parklawn Assembly of God Church will celebrate its 105th Anniversary.

Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey has been the Senior Pastor of Parklawn Assembly of God Church since 1993. He is the devoted husband of Judy Martin Harvey, the father of Nicholas J. Harvey and grandfather of Autumn Marie Harvey. Since assuming the role of Senior Pastor, he has not only led the worship facility in the renovation of the building but also instituted a new church constitution and bylaws which has brought a spirit of renewal to the church and the community. Bishop-Elect Harvey is an author, mentor, and life coach. He is the President of Walter Harvey Ministries, Inc., an international media communications and consulting firm and can be heard daily on the "Light for the World" and "Light for Today" radio broadcasts. Further, he founded the Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy in 1998.

Bishop-Elect Harvey is in great demand as a speaker around his community, city, nationally and internationally. He serves the Assemblies of God statewide and at the national level as a General Presbyterian and vice president of the National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, as an Executive Presbyterian of the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan Ministry Network and as an Ethnic/Language Presbyterian. He also serves pastors as an overseer of the Outpouring Ministry Network Group; a group of seven Milwaukee area pastors/ministries. Bishop-Elect Harvey serves on the boards of various social, economic, educational and philanthropic organizations. He is a man of God who not only serves the members of his congregation, but reaches out to make community a better place.

Mister Speaker, this is why I rise to praise Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey, a man I am proud to call a friend. I honor Bishop-Elect Walter F. Harvey's many accomplishments and life time commitment to the entire Milwaukee Community and 4th Congressional District.

HONORING LIBERTY COMMON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention to Liberty Common High School's (LCHS) outstanding performance on the ACT college readiness assessment. Liberty Common High School is a relatively new public high school located in Fort Collins, Colorado, and its students performed exceptionally on this year's exam. Liberty's achievement not only shows the intellectual strength of the Class of 2015, but also demonstrates the overall success of the charter school's educational program.

The ACT is a college readiness assessment that all Colorado high school students are required to take in their junior year. In both 2012 and 2013, Liberty Common High School achieved the highest composite ACT score in the state of Colorado. This year, Liberty Com-

mon High School's composite score of 28.63 was not only the highest of all the high schools in Colorado, but was also the highest in the history of our great state. LCHS also now holds the record for every subject category on the ACT. These feats are particularly impressive given the fact that LCHS only opened in 2010 and is such a young school. It has obtained the highest ACT score in the state in every year that its students have taken the test.

Academic achievement at this level not only shows the success of a charter school built on parental involvement, but also the strength of the curriculum taught at Liberty Common High School. The principal of Liberty Common High School, former Congressman Bob Schaffer said, "These scores are a reflection of a solid classical, college-preparatory curriculum we've built atop the powerful Core Knowledge curriculum we use in grades K through eight." This Core Knowledge curriculum, along with the character education in both elementary and high school, is structured in a way so that students' knowledge builds upon what they learned in the previous year. The foundational skills learned in the elementary grades allow students to reach a higher level of education in high school.

While in high school, LCHS students are not only challenged by their classes and teachers, but also by their peers. Members of Liberty Common High School's Class of 2015, who have just recently set the ACT composite score record for the state of Colorado, attribute their success, in part, to the class which preceded them. The Class of 2014 not only set the bar high for the class below them, but held sessions that helped juniors prepare for the ACT early. They challenged the Class of 2015 to beat their score while helping them to do so. A student community like the one at Liberty allows students to invite others to try their best while offering help to one another in the process.

This score is outstanding, but what is more outstanding is what this score symbolizes—a school run by parents, chosen by parents, and supported by parents preparing their children to achieve in college and in life. Successes like these should not go unnoticed, but instead should be highlighted as an example for what a great public education can achieve.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELBA LUCIANO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Melba Luciano. Mrs. Luciano earned her bachelor's degree in Health Education from Hunter College in New York and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova University.

A dedicated educator, she has over 30 years of experience in education, through a variety of positions including Classroom Assistant, Teacher, Elementary Resource Specialist, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. She began her career with the Osceola School District in 1986, and was